

## PROGRESSIVE FARMER

Published Weekly at Raleigh, N. C.

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Single Subscription One Year... \$1.00  
Six Months... .50  
Three Months... .25

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We invite correspondence, news items, suggestions and criticisms on the subjects of agriculture, stock raising, stock breeding, dairying, horticulture and gardening; woman's work, literature, or any subject of interest to our lady readers, young people, the family generally, public matters, current events, political questions and principles, etc.—in short, any subject discussed in an all-round farm and family newspaper. Communications should be free from personalities and party abuse.

## Editorial.

### NO PAPER NEXT WEEK.

The Progressive Farmer will not appear next week. We shall spend the holidays taking our bearings, receiving the subscriptions of those who wish to renew, preparatory to taking a fresh hold and, we hope, making the paper better than ever during 1901.

We shall greet you next on January 1, 1901—the first day of the first month of the twentieth century.

For our subscribers, one and all, who have stood by us so nobly during the last twelve months, we wish the merriest of Christmases and the happiest of New Years!

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

This month Argentine farmers be an harvesting their wheat, and the work will continue through most of January. It is early summer time there now.

We ask attention to the call for a meeting of the State Horticultural Society in Asheville, to-morrow, 19th inst. A large number of our fruit-growers ought to attend.

Now, about that person to whom we sent some sample copies at your request—don't fail to see him sometime during the holidays and get his subscription. You'll not have a better time for the work.

One of the most interesting series of magazine articles published this year is that on "The Greatest Books of the Century" in the December magazine number of The Outlook. We shall give the list of books selected in our next issue.

Reporting an outbreak of smallpox in Granville county, Col. F. A. Olds says: "In fact, not a tenth of the people of this State are vaccinated. It is no wonder that smallpox finds so many subjects." Outbreaks of smallpox are feared in many sections of the State this winter. A vaccination crusade ought to be started.

Two of our exchanges have recently commented approvingly upon the Raleigh Post's determination not to publish the dirty details of the Sullivan scandal. This was in accord with the Post's general policy of giving only the news that is fit to print and avoiding the vices of yellow journalism. May its tribe increase.

Don't worry over what you shall get for a Christmas present for that friend of yours. Give him or her a year's subscription to The Progressive Farmer. Send us the money, stating that it is a Christmas gift, and

we'll notify the person named that the paper is sent at your expense and with your best wishes. Try this plan and you'll not regret it.

Bro. J. C. Bain will devote this week to Alliance work in Robeson county. Bro. Bain is an effective worker and we expect a good report from him for our next issue. A practical farmer, one of the people, he knows what he is talking about when he discusses the needs and benefits of organization. By the way, he organized another Sub. in Cumberland early in this month.

Some of the newspapers are having a rather lively time trying to explain away alleged humbuggery in regard to the census guessing contests, whereby a number of papers roped in thousands of guileless greenies. The best plan is to avoid all papers that adopt such schemes. Let every tub stand on its own bottom. A paper worth the money doesn't have to resort to guessing contests to maintain its circulation. But, verily, people love to be humbugged.

While Congressional apportionment is one of the subjects most talked of at this time, we have noticed so far but one article, on the apportionment of representatives by our next Legislature. A correspondent of the Charlotte Observer says that by the census figures Beaufort, Bamcombe, Gaston, and Union will each gain a member of our House of Representative while Chatham, Granville, New Hanover and Sampson will lose one each.

Here again is that plank from The Progressive Farmer's platform: "We believe there should be—and must be if our State would secure the standing it should have—good roads everywhere, a good school in every district, a good newspaper in every home." Put these things down as things to work for in your own township during the New Year. Don't try to reform the country; you will have done your part if you have the above platform put in force in your township.

As we have already said, the factory problem came in for its share of attention at the Baptist State Convention. And in discussing it, Dr. R. T. Vann gave utterance to this sentiment well worth repeating: "God forbid that the time will ever come when the Coat of Arms of North Carolina will ever be a dollar mark." Amen! say we. Let us be just and humane. We want the factories to prosper, but they can do so without overworking the operatives or robbing childhood of its joys.

Free rural delivery is an undoubted success in North Carolina. Once tested in a community, it is ever after regarded as a necessity. As an enthusiastic farmer writes in an exchange: "We are rejoicing in free delivery. Instead of being obliged to go two miles through storm and snow drift, sick or well, as of old, we sit by the fire and wait for Uncle Sam to bring the mail to our door. Of all the things this government has done to help the farmer, nothing comes anywhere near to rural free mail delivery. The world looks better to us than ever in the past."

"Tax Payer," whose letter appears on page 7, having been crowded out last week, evidently does not understand the Reformatory. It is not to be a prison merely, as "Tax Payer" will see by reading Dr. Alexander's letter in our last issue; instead it is proposed to place the youthful wrong-doers under the care of capable men, to learn them some useful trade, and endeavor to make them good members of society. Instead of making them worse criminals, as "Tax Payer" suggests—and as is the case when boys or girls are confined in prisons with hardened criminals—statistics prove clearly that a majority of those that enter reformatories become useful citizens.

The Statesville Landmark is waging a just war against nepotism, which seems to have accomplished good already. There's nothing obscure in the following statement of its position: "But we have very strong feelings on the subject; we have no patience with office-holders who crowd members of their own family and especially their children into the public service because their own positions enable them to do so, to the detriment of the thousands of other bright and affable boys who get no showing because they have no fathers or relatives in office to command influence for them. The practice is unjust if not indecent."

### WHAT CONGRESS IS DOING.

Though the Grout anti-oleomargarine bill has gone through the House with colors flying, we fear very much that the Senate will not act upon the measure at its present session. It certainly will not unless the dairymen and friends of pure food bring the same vigorous pressure to bear upon the Senate that was used to such good purpose in the House.

The friends of temperance are rejoicing over the passage by the House of the anti-canteen amendment to the army bill by the decisive vote of 159 to 51. A stubborn fight will be made upon it when it reaches the Senate.

One would suppose that the enemies of the ship subsidy bill would also be the enemies of the oleo fraud, the former being for the purpose of taxing the people generally for the benefit of a special class, which the oleo-ites wish to defraud the people generally for the benefit of the small class of oleo makers. Yet while nearly all the Democrats oppose the ship subsidy steal, they uphold the oleo fraud, a majority of the Republicans taking the opposite view in both instances. We have already given our opinion of the ship subsidy bill. It is being vigorously supported, however, by Senator Hanna and other Republican leaders, including Senator Pritchard, of our own State, and will undoubtedly pass.

The Nicaraguan bill is being vigorously pressed by its friends. We hope that Congress will appropriate all the money needed and let the work begin. The Nicaraguan Canal will be of more benefit to our country than all the money that could be spent on ship subsidies for a thousand years. An important act of the Senate last week, it may be said in this connection, was the passage of an amendment to the Hay-Pauncefote treaty declaring that along the canal we shall have the privilege of adopting measures which we "may find it necessary to take for securing by our own forces the defense of the United States and the maintenance of public order." Other facts regarding the canal are given in our General News columns.

Congressman Kitchin, to kill time, has introduced a resolution to repeal the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution. While that will not, of course, create a ripple on the surface, it is probable that it will amount to quite as much as Representative Crumpacker's bill to reduce the South's representation in Congress. Both President McKinley and Senator Pritchard are outspoken against Crumpacker's measure.

On Wednesday of last week, Congress celebrated the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the capital at Washington. One hundred years ago the transfer of the seat of government was made from Philadelphia and the site previously selected by President Washington was taken possession of by the various branches of government, President and Mrs. Adams driving over from Philadelphia, the Senate and the House holding their sessions in Washington for the first time.

Congress at this session will appropriate the sum of \$145,250,000 for pensions—practically \$2 for each man, woman, and child in the country, if equally distributed among all. The bill carrying this appropriation passed the House on the 15th inst., without debate or amendment. On the same day, the bill to reduce the special war taxes—\$35,000,000 is the extent of the reduction, we believe—passed without opposition.

Able as was the late Senator Cushman K. Davis, of Minnesota, his immediate successor, Hon. Charles A. Towne, is in no point his inferior. This is admitted by men of all parties. We remember that the New York Outlook sent two able members of its staff—one a Democrat, the other a Republican—to report the Kansas City Convention. Each paid a high tribute to Mr. Towne, practically saying together that he was "without question, the man of the finest intellect, the finest culture, the finest character, and the finest abilities as a popular orator of all the men presented to the Convention." Mr. Towne's Senatorial career will be brief, as the Minnesota Legislature will within a few weeks elect a straight Republican to succeed him.

The President's apothegm, "Let us keep always in mind that the foundation of our government is liberty; its superstructure peace," has occasioned more comment than any other part of his message.

### WHAT SHALL WE DO FOR OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

No other Superintendent of Public Instruction in the history of North Carolina, with the exception of Calvin H. Wiley, ever labored as zealously and successfully for the improvement of our public schools, as has Hon. Charles H. Mebane during the four years just past. His "Recommendations to the 1901 Legislature," therefore, which made its appearance on the 15th inst., deserves special notice. No one in the State knows better the needs of the school children or is more deeply interested in their welfare. We wish that a copy of Mr. Mebane's "Recommendations" could be placed in the hands of every voter in the State, but as this is impossible, we shall give a few extracts from it. And we are free to say that in our opinion not one of the following recommendations is unwise; we especially endorse his recommendations in regard to railroad taxation, State adoption of text-books, and the restoration of the local taxation act of 1897.

Mr. Mebane says:  
A SERIOUS MISTAKE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF 1899.

"One of the most serious mistakes of the Legislature of 1899, in was the repeal of the Acts of 1897, regard to certain townships that had voted upon themselves a special tax, and entered into a contract with the State for three years.

"Instead of repealing laws whereby townships had voted special taxes, it would have been wiser to legislate to encourage and make it easier to have the special tax. The future citizen of North Carolina will look upon this as a backward step.

ABOLISH COUNTY ADOPTION OF TEXT-BOOKS.

"Why not do away with all the expense of county adoption and give the children the benefit of all these thousands of dollars in reduction of prices on text-books?

"Can it be done? I believe it can. "I advise that the text-books be adopted by the State Board of Examiners, which is composed of educators, of school men.

"The law should provide that the maximum price paid should not exceed seventy-five per cent. of the published list wholesale price.

HOW TO GET THE MONEY FOR BETTER SCHOOLS.

"I advise the General Assembly to impose a tax upon the gross receipts of the railroads in North Carolina for the benefit of the public schools. It can be done. It ought to be done. We find taxes upon gross earnings in fourteen States. Why not have it in North Carolina?

"If the insurance, telegraph and the telephone companies are taxed on gross earnings in our State, and I am informed they are, then why not the railroads pay a similar tax?

"The railroads in North Carolina now net five million dollars annually over and above 4 per cent on the real value of their property. These roads could stand a tax of 5 per cent on their gross earnings, which would give us \$700,000 annually, and then leave them \$4,300,000, to carry out of the State.

"Let us have 5 per cent on gross earnings, and give it all to the school fund.

### COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

"I am slow to advise a compulsory attendance of our public schools under our present conditions, and especially when I remember the character of work done in some of our public schools, but when I call to mind that in many cases the children are kept from schools by careless, indifferent parents, and sometimes by lazy parents, who compel them to work in cotton mills, while their fathers sit around the stores, talk politics, and discuss the ways and means of preserving the government; when I think of these cases, I am compelled to conclude that the State ought to come to the rescue of these helpless children.

### AS TO AGE OF TEACHERS.

"I recommend that the Legislature make the minimum age of the public school teacher at least 18 years. It would be better for the children and the cause of public education to make the minimum of 20 years."

### AMEND THE CONSTITUTION.

"Article 9, Sec. 9, declares that 'Public schools shall be maintained at least four months in every year.' This is good, but Article 5, Sec. 1, conflicts with it, and the Supreme Court of North Carolina has rendered a decision in favor of the 5th article, making Sec. 3 of Article 9, of no effect.

"Let us have another amendment to the Constitution, and make it the

duty of the County Commissioners to levy a tax sufficient to run the schools at least four months in each year, instead of two and a half or three months, as the term now is in some counties.

### APPROPRIATE ANOTHER \$100,000.

"The appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars to the public schools by the Legislature of 1899, gives hope and encouragement to the friends of public education.

"I recommend that the Legislature of 1901 add another hundred thousand dollars, thus making an annual appropriation of two hundred thousand dollars direct to the public schools.

### FAMILY LIKENESSES IN STOCK.

To note a family trait, or likeness to a notable sire, is a pleasure to a breeder when the trait or likeness is a desirable feature, or shows the good qualities to be increasing. It is gratifying to see the desirable visible points re-appearing and thus to note his own progress. Or if he surely but reluctantly notes a defect cropping out now and then, he is warned of danger, and, if wise, heeds it and takes measures to reduce the per cent. of the blood which reproduces the offending traits by selecting anew, after deciding to discard the offending element, or to mate it with some stronger to overcome by reason of its own prepotent power in the direction in which the undesirable qualities is shown.

We have been led to these notes by musing on some points of animals we have had in hand. A Shorthorn calf was thought to be of poor form and undesirable because of slight rise and fall in the spine just above setting on of tail, due to one lengthened and one shortened spiroous process, as we have noted it. The family is one of the leading "milking" families of Shorthorns prominent in the World's Fair tests and tracing back to importations by Henry Clay. Some photos of older animals in this family show this conformation to be probably a family inheritance. If this could be proved to be a constant accompaniment and to point out the deep milking quality of the Kitty Clay family, it might become a desirable point, in spite of the jealous eye with which breeders regard anything which interferes with the smoothness of the beef form.

The highest degree of vitality, or force, stamps itself on the offspring, and breeders look for the re-appearance of qualities, and when they are found call this power of re-producing their prepotency, whether in sire or dam. This is the power which a vigorous sire exercises in a herd or flock which leads breeders to the axiom, "the sire is half the herd"—only a half truth, since by his prepotent value a sire may become more than, yes, much more than half, in increasing the size and valuable qualities of his offspring.

We have now in hand some chickens inbred by mating a fine cock with pullets from the previous year's mating with him. Of two nearly equal cockerels from this last mating, the larger has inherited the peculiar low cry of the old cock, made in crowing. This shows that the defective vocal chords have also been re-produced together with (as we hope) all the good qualities of the parent bird of two generations. This supports the "like begets like" of breeders and warns that defects are as sure of re-production as are the most perfect forms and qualities.

The great show horse and valuable sire Mambrino King, well known years ago as the Duke horse, has many handsome descendants which are speedy but report says no one equal to himself though no one doubts this great horse has bettered the light harness and speed horses of today by his beauty and great force as a sire.

In our own vicinity the great Pamlico left one or two which resembled himself, but they were not also endowed with speed enough to keep up the likeness.

There are many instances which the writer could call up in his own experience and doubtless every reader will promptly recall others of his own observation where offspring has closely resembled the sire or dam in harmony with the great laws of reproduction. Happy is the breeder who can observe close enough to see which of the offspring inherit the greatest share of good points and fail to develop any undesirable trait or tendency. His career should be a forward and successful one.

F. E. E.

Good nature and good sense are usually companions.

### MR. TOMPKINS' BILL.

Mr. D. A. Tompkins' proposed bill in regard to cotton mill labor, published elsewhere in this issue, is attracting much attention. Its most serious defect, in our opinion, is in regard to the hours of labor. As The Roxboro Courier says:

"Mr. Tompkins suggests that 11 hours constitute a days work. Almost every other industry in the State require 10 hours a day, and there is no reason why cotton mill operatives should be compelled to work longer hours than other laborers. The fact is, we believe a lot of hands will do more work, and better work, in twelve months working ten hours a day than they will working eleven, and certainly they will work more cheerfully. It would be only reasonable to expect a more healthy class of citizens if they had more time to take outdoor exercise. With this exception, and we learn Mr. Tompkins is not wedded to the 11 hours, his measure has been strenuously endorsed all over the State. There is hardly a doubt but some legislation along this line will be enacted by the Legislature."

### BRO. PARKER IN WAKE.

Bro T. B. Parker re-organized White Oak Alliance at Green Level School House, last Friday night. This Alliance starts out well, with some good timber in it and good prospects for growth.

It is hoped that Auburn Alliance will soon be re-organized.

As a result of the meetings at Dukeston and Inwood, the people of Holly Springs and Middle Creek townships are requested to meet at Norris's School House, Saturday, 22nd inst., at 2 p. m. for the purpose of re-organizing and combining Holly Springs and Middle Creek Alliances. We hope that this meeting will be largely attended.

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

In an article contributed to a leading religious journal of Tennessee by Rev. Dr. N. H. D. Wilson, there are some facts regarding North Carolinians that we as a people may study with profit. Dr. Wilson says: "The Old North State owes much of her reputation as the Rip Van Winkle State to the want of cooperative activity among her people. They are and have always been a strong, resolute, independent people, who attended strictly—to strictly—to their own business. When they go away from home, where there is a spirit of co-operation, they become leaders of organized power. But at home we have failed to accomplish large results because of this individual independence. On commercial lines a change is slowly taking place, and there is some sign of improvement in other lines; but even yet it is extremely hard to secure organization and co-operation. We find this a drawback in our Church and Conference work. It has proved almost fatal to historical and literary effort. May a better day dawn soon! But may no day's dawn ever weaken the independence of character and the firmness of purpose of the 'Tar Heel!' Only let him learn the wisdom of united effort."

### THE SHIP SUBSIDY STEAL.

One of the very best exposures of the ship subsidy bill is this from the New York World:

The Frye-Hanna plea for the ship subsidy scheme is incomplete. For instance, it omits these points:

First—Does the bill compel more American sailors at better wages? It does not. On the contrary, the ship owner may pocket the subsidy and hire foreign seamen at the lowest wages.

Second—Does the bill assure larger American cargoes?

It does not. On the contrary, it makes it possible for ship owners to sail with empty vessels and still get the subsidy.

Third—Does the bill secure faster ships?

It does not. On the contrary, it makes fast trips of no consequence.

Fourth—Does the bill arrange for more mails?

It does not. On the contrary, it leaves the foreign mails as now, to be carried by the fast British and German ships.

Fifth—Does the bill provide for more ships?

It does not. On the contrary, it makes it to the interest of the existing companies to combine, crush competition and divide the subsidy among as few ships and ship owners as possible.

What, then, does the bill promise?

Large bonuses to be added to the dividends of steamship companies, which are at present earning good profits without subsidies.